

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL BELIZE IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 104671

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GT, BH

SUBJECT: NEW ORLEANS TALKS, GUATEMALAN VERSION

1. GOG FOREIGN MINISTER MOLINA, ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR ASENSIO AND DELEGATION MEMBER JORGE SKINNER-KLEE, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS APRIL 29 TO GIVE THEIR VERSION OF NEW ORLEANS TALKS. MOLINA SAID THE TALKS WENT WELL AND WERE AN ENCOURAGING FIRST STEP. HE THOUGHT ALL SIDES APPROACHED THE MEETING WITH GOOD WILL, INCLUDING BELIZE. THE BRITISH POSITION QUOTE OFFERED THE POSSIBILITY OF AN ACCORD UNQUOTE.

2. MOLINA SAID THEY WOULD PURSUE A STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH, LEAVING THE QUESTION OF TERRITORY UNTIL LATER. THIS INCLUDES FIXING A MARITIME BOUNDARY, WHICH THE BRITISH WERE ANXIOUS TO BEGIN WORK ON NOW. THE GOG, HOWEVER, WANTS THIS PUT OFF UNTIL THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE IS ADDRESSED.

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3. THE NEXT MEETING IS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR THE
END OF JULY, WITH WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO BE HELD
IN JUNE. THE GOG WILL STUDY THE BRITISH PROPOSALS AND

MAKE THEIR COUNTER OFFER THEN. ASENSIO SAID THAT IF
NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN PROCESS HE SAW NO NEED FOR THE
ISSUE TO BE RAISED IN THE NEXT UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY.
MEM CON FOLLOWS BY POUCH. SISCO

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